

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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27 February 1959



MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

THROUGH : Director of Administration, DPD-DD/P

SUBJECT : BRUCKER, Honorable Wilber M.
CORONA Security Briefing

1. Major General William W. Quinn, Deputy ACSI; Brigadier General John J. Davis, DFI, ACSI; and Colonel Charles J. Denholm, Chief, Collection Division, ACSI were briefed on Project CORONA by [redacted] of this staff on 24 February 1959. Following the meeting, General Quinn requested that the Security representative stay and take advantage of a 4:20 p.m. appointment to brief the Honorable Wilber M. Brucker, Secretary of the Army.

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2. The reasons for briefing Secretary Brucker were twofold: (1) so that he would be aware of activities in which the ACSI was involved; and (2) so that he would be in a position to approve a [redacted] for purchase of various pieces of equipment to be utilized at PIC for the exploitation of Project CORONA take. [redacted] concurred, and Secretary Brucker was briefed on both Projects CORONA and CHALICE. He had previously been briefed on the TALENT System.


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3. During the earlier briefing General Quinn inquired of Mr. Adcock and Colonel Noland, who are the ACSI representatives to the ARC Committee and who were in attendance at the briefing, as to whether Project CORONA would include any special equipment designed to give a more valuable result from the standpoint of geodesy. General Quinn was of the opinion that this would be one of the most valuable products that CORONA would furnish to the Army. He pointed out the deficiencies in trying to place an ICBM on a specific target with any degree of accuracy where only photographic intelligence positioning is available. As you are probably aware, the Army now has a satellite activity programmed for some time in the future wherein the major product will be geodesy. It will contain equipment that will permit concurrent photographing upward as well as downward and thereby be able to calculate through celestial navigation an accurate fix at any given time.

4. Mr. Adcock advised General Quinn that he intended to make a recommendation to the ARC Committee that the CORONA satellite contain special geodetic equipment.

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